

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, and 8 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from the independent claims.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended by way of this reply to clarify the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Support may be found, for example, in the original claims and paragraphs [0027] - [0036] and Figure 2, elements **23** and **24** of the published specification. This after final amendment is requested to place the claims in position for allowance, pursuant to Examiner's suggestions in paragraphs 4-6 of the Office Action dated April 22, 2009. No new issues are presented for consideration or search and the amendment is further presented to simplify matters for appeal.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,481,610 ("Doiron") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0182565 ("Nakano"). To the extent this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

An embodiment of the present invention “relates to equipment for DVD capable of protecting prescribed information such as a password or key data for encryption or decryption recorded in a memory, and a method and an apparatus for recording the prescribed information.” *See* paragraph [0002] of the published application. The present disclosure “includes a memory in which key data associated with information on a DVD is recorded in advance, and a processing portion processing information on the DVD using the key data from the memory. In the memory, random data is written around the key data.” *See* paragraph [0009] of the published application. The key data may serve as both an encryption and a decryption key for equipment that encrypts and records or decrypts information read from a DVD. *See* paragraphs [0011] and [0012] of the published application. Multiple key data may be stored in multiple locations in the flash memory surrounded by random data. *See* paragraph [0029] and fig. 2 of the published application.

The present disclosure writes the key data prior to placing randomized data adjacent to it within a rewritable flash memory of prescribed size so that “the key data stored in the memory can be protected against copy or peeping.” *See* paragraphs [0009], [0010], [0014], and [0028] of the published specification. To read the prescribed information from the flash memory, it is necessary to designate the specific area in the flash memory as well as to designate the prescribed addresses. In addition, the specific area in which the prescribed information and random data are written is an area having a prescribed size comparable to one access unit of the flash memory. Thus, the prescribed information and the random data can be written through a single access to the flash memory. The key data can also be modified by a key data writing equipment.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part, “a rewritable flash memory of prescribed size in which key data...is recorded in advance in at least one prescribed address in an unused specific area...[and] the at least one prescribed address is stored in at least one location in said unused specific area...[where] the at least one location is specific and unmoved after each access by said means for accessing...[and further] accessing the information on said digital video disc...using said key data read from said at least one prescribed address in said flash memory...wherein random data is written in entire unused area around an area where said key data is recorded in said specific area of said flash memory,” and that “the key data can be modified by a key data writing equipment.” Claims 5 and 8, as amended, recite, in part, substantially similar limitations to that of claim 1 noted above.

Thus, in the present invention, the key data is written in a plurality of prescribed locations to a rewritable flash memory of prescribed size. The prescribed information is then surrounded by random data, and the rewritable flash memory of prescribed size with random and key data is surrounded by the program data. Thus, it is difficult to extract the prescribed information. The locations of the prescribed information within the random data are unknown and the prescribed addresses of the prescribed information are unknown. *See* paragraphs [0028], [0029], and [0035] of the published specification. Thus, the key data is indistinguishable from the program data within the flash memory.

Examiner indicated that Applicant’s prior arguments would be persuasive if support was found in the claims. Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner’s suggestions, and although Applicant respectfully disagrees, amendment has been made to clarify the claimed

invention only, and the claims should now be allowable. Claims 1, 5, and 8 have been amended by way of this reply to incorporate storing data in multiple locations within the specified area. Support may be found in paragraph [0029] and figure 2, elements **23** and **24** of the published specification. Further, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the stored information is located in a prescribed and stable location. Support may be found in paragraph [0035] and figure 3 of the published specification.


Neither Doiron nor Nakano provide the above limitations, thus claims 1, 5, and 8 are patentable over the prior art. Further, claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend from claims 1 and 5, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04536/034001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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